

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 5-7 and 9-11 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 5 and 9 recite methods for preparing a microarray having a hydrophobic barrier comprised of the steps of selecting the probe set, synthesizing the probe sets on a slide using the light-directed maskless array synthesizer to provide the plurality of subarrays and depositing hydrophobic phosphoramidite groups between the subarrays to provide a barrier around each subarray using the same light-directed maskless array synthesizer.

Butler teaches use of a maskless light directing device in selecting a probe set, synthesizing the probe sets on a slide to provide the plurality of subarrays and depositing hydrophobic phosphoramidite groups between the subarrays to provide a barrier around each subarray. Butler does not teach using the light directed maskless array device to synthesize the array as in the instant claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DWAYNE K. HANDY whose telephone number is (571)272-1259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dwayne K Handy/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Jill Warden/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

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